

BLAENAVON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT  
for the year 1951.  
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F. J. Hallinan,  
M.B.E. (Mil), M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.,  
Area Medical Officer,  
No. 7 Area, Monmouthshire.

District Medical Officer,  
Blaenavon Urban District.

Council Offices,  
Lion Street,  
Blaenavon, Mon.

June, 1952.

BLAENAVON URBAN DISTRICT.

Summary of Statistics - 1951.

Area of district.	4,613 acres.
Rateable value.	£34,346
Estimated net product of ld. rate (1951-52).	£125:15:8.9.
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.51).	2,815
Number of Council owned houses (31.12.'52).	384
Population (estimated mid 1951).	9,719
Number of persons per house.	3.5
Census population (1931)-(5,847 males & 5,229 females)	11,076
Census population (1951)-(4,975 males & 4,802 females)	9,777
Number of live births.	123
Birth rate per 1,000 population.	12.7
Number of illegitimate births.	4
Number of stillbirths.	8
Number of deaths.	125
Death rate per 1,000 population.	12.9
Number of infant deaths.	6
Infant mortality rate.	48.8
Number of maternal deaths.	Nil
Deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population from pulmonary tuberculosis.	Nil
Deaths from cancer.	17
Death rate per 1,000 population from cancer.	1.7
Percentage of the total deaths for 1951 due to tuberculosis(all forms).	Nil
Percentage of the total deaths for 1951 due to cancer.	13.6%

<u>Year</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1946	169	122
1947	202	156
1948	173	116
1949	155	137
1950	150	144
1951	123	125

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
to the  
Urban District Council of Blaenavon  
for the year ended December 31st, 1951.  
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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Blaenavon Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Lewis and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the Urban District of Blaenavon for the year ending 31.12.'51. This report has been compiled in accordance with Articles 6(3) and 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and as laid down in circular 45/51, dated December 10th, 1951, of the Welsh Board of Health.

General Comment.

Blaenavon, in common with the rest of the country, experienced an influenza epidemic during the opening weeks of 1951 which continued into the month of March. This epidemic of influenza was not of a severe nature as experienced in other parts of the country. The average case was characterised by a sudden onset, was sharp and short in duration, with full recovery in 10 days. Three deaths due to influenza were recorded.

As the influenza epidemic was clearing up, the district experienced a measles epidemic which continued into the month of June. This epidemic, coupled with an outbreak of chicken-pox, affected school attendances for several weeks. Apart from 236 notifications of measles the district was very free from infectious disease during the year. There were no cases of infantile paralysis notified for the second year in succession.



### General Statistics and Social Conditions.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population as at mid 1951 was 9,719. The census population was 9,777.

#### Census population - 1951 - adjacent urban districts.

Abergavenny M.B.	8,844	Abercarn	18,757	Abertillery	27,617
Bodwellty	28,826	Cwmbran	13,162	Ebbw Vale	29,205
Monmouth M.B.	5,432	Tredeggar	20,375	Pontypool	42,683

The workers in this district are mainly engaged in heavy industry, such as coal mining and steel works, while, since the decline of the town's own industries, many travel long distances daily to work in other localities.

The Blaenavon Urban District is located at the apex of the Eastern Valley of Monmouthshire and is moderately well served for road and rail transport.

Apart from the urgent need for new industries the Blaenavon Urban District's greatest want is for new houses and the provision of an adequate and satisfactory water supply.

#### Rainfall.

The district's rainfall for the year was taken in the grounds of No.2 Reservoir and supplied by the Council's Surveyor, Mr. G. C. E. Thomas, was as follows:-

Jan.	6.66	inches	July	1.44	inches.
Feb.	8.34		Aug.	5.56	
March.	5.94		Sept.	6.16	
April.	4.25		Oct.	1.35	
May.	5.24		Nov.	14.17	
June.	1.05		Dec.	7.12	

The district's rainfall during the last 10 years was as follows:-

1942	47.18	inches	1947	47.74	inches
1943	52.55	"	1948	61.72	"
1944	47.13	"	1949	50.90	"
1945	51.15	"	1950	56.89	"
1946	67.78	"	1951	67.28	"





## VITAL STATISTICS

Table I      Showing the actual number of live births, estimated mid-year population, and birth rate per 1,000 population for the Blaenavon U.D. for the last six years.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of births	123	150	155	173	202	169
Estimated mid-year population.	9,719	9,981	9,975	9,922	9,764	9,797
Birth rate per 1,000 population.	12.7	15.0	15.5	17.4	20.6	17.3

The total live births registered locally during 1951 and allocated to this district numbered 61, comprising 28 males and 33 females. (See table II)

The number of inward transferable live births registered outside the district was 62, comprising 33 males and 29 females. (See table II)

The total live births assigned to the district for 1951 numbered 123, comprising 61 males and 62 females. (See table II)

Of the total of 123 live births 4 were illegitimate - 3 males and 1 female.

The number of stillbirths assigned to this district was 8 - 6 males and 2 females, 2 males being illegitimate.

There was a decline of 27 in the live births as compared with 1950. This decline represents a fall of 18% on the 1950 figure.

Deaths for the year exceeded the live births by 2.

The birth rate was 12.5 per 1,000 population as compared with 16.5 for the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and 15.5 for England and Wales for 1951.





Table II Showing the births registered in and allocated to the Blaenavon Urban District for 1951, according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable births.

Month	Male	Female	Total	Quarterly births.
January	5	1	6)	14
February	1	3	4)	
March	-	4	4)	
April	1	2	3)	19
May	4	2	6)	
June	4	6	10)	
July	2	5	7)	19
August	2	3	5)	
September	5	2	7)	
October	1	3	4)	9
November	2	1	3)	
December	1	1	2)	
Totals	28	33	61	61
Inward transferable births.	33	29	62	
Grand Total for year 1951	61	62	123	

Comparative birth rates for 1951.

Blaenavon Urban District	12.7
Monmouthshire Administrative County	16.5
England and Wales	15.5



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### DEATHS.

Table III Showing the actual number of deaths, estimated mid-year population, and the death rate per 1,000 population for the Blaenavon U.D. for the last six years.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of deaths	125	144	139	116	156	122
Estimated mid-year population.	9,719	9,981	9,975	9,922	9,764	9,797
Death rate per 1,000 population.	12.9	14.4	13.7	11.7	15.8	12.5

The number of deaths assigned to this district for 1951 was 125, comprising 67 males and 58 females. This shows a decline of 19 deaths over 1950, when the number was 144. Table V shows how these deaths were assigned to the various causes for the year 1951.

There was no death assigned to either pulmonary tuberculosis or non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the year. This must be a unique occurrence for this district.

There was also no death due to maternal causes during the year.

There were 17 deaths due to all forms of cancer, 8 males and 9 females. This figure represents 13.6% of the deaths from all causes for the year.

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels accounted for 57 deaths, 26 males and 31 females. This figure represents 45.6% of the deaths from all causes during the year.

Diseases of the respiratory system accounted for 26 deaths, 19 males and 7 females. This represents 20.8% of the deaths from all causes during the year.

There were three deaths due to influenza - all males. This figure represents 2.4% of the deaths due to all causes for the year.

The death rate per 1,000 population for this district for 1951 was 12.9



Table IV Showing the deaths registered in and assigned to the Blaenavon Urban District during 1951, according to sex, month and quarter of occurrence, together with the inward transferable deaths.

Month	Males	Females	Total	Quarterly Deaths
January	9	5	14)	41
February	10	9	19)	
March	4	4	8)	
April	6	3	9)	23
May	3	1	4)	
June	3	7	10)	
July	5	3	8)	16
August	1	3	4)	
September	1	3	4)	
October	5	-	5)	25
November	5	5	10)	
December	4	6	10)	
Totals	56	49	105	105
Inward transferable deaths	11	9	20	
Grand Total for the year 1951.	67	58	125	

Comparative death rates

Blaenavon Urban District	12.9
Monmouthshire Administrative County	13.4
England and Wales	12.5



Table V Showing the deaths from all causes, infant deaths, births and stillbirths allocated to this district for 1951.

Causes of death	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-
5. Whooping cough.	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	5
15. Leukaemia, Aloukaemia.	-	-
16. Diabetes.	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	4	11
18. Coronary Disease, angina.	2	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-
20. Other heart disease.	17	13
21. Other circulatory disease.	2	5
22. Influenza.	3	-
23. Pneumonia.	2	-
24. Bronchitis.	10	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	4	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
31. Congenital, malformations.	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	8	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	2	1
34. All other accidents.	2	1
35. Suicide.	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-
Total all causes	67	58
Deaths in infants under 1 year of age	5	1
Legitimate	5	1
Illegitimate	-	-
Total births	61	62
Legitimate	58	61
Illegitimate	3	1
Stillbirths - Total	6	2
Legitimate	4	2
Illegitimate	2	-

Estimated population - mid 1951 - 9,719  
(for calculation of births and death rates)

Comparability factors:-

<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
1.10	1.03





Table VI Showing the number of inquests during 1951 on persons belonging to this district, and the circumstances of the deaths.

Circumstances of death	Male	Female	Total
Industrial disease-silicosis	3	-	3
Accidents on the roads (pedestrians)	-	1	1
Accidents on the roads (Motor cyclists)	1	-	1
Accidents on open cast coal mining sites.	3	-	3
Accidents in the home.	-	1	1
Suicides.	-	1	1
Found drowned.	-	1	1
All causes	7	4	11

There were 11 inquests held on persons of this district who died through accidental or other means as listed above.

The 3 male deaths due to silicosis occurred in men aged 74, 52 and 50 years.

The three deaths on open cast coal mining sites involved males aged 57, 25 and 19 years.

Accidents on the highway claimed 2 deaths - 1 male aged 27 years and 1 female aged 28 years.

The death following an accidental fall in the home occurred in an old lady aged 87 years.

There was one suicidal death which occurred in a female aged 16 years after self-administered rodine rat poison.

The death categorised as "found drowned" occurred in a female aged 47 years.



# INFANT MORTALITY.

Table VII Showing the actual number of infant deaths, live births, etc., for the past six years for the Blaenavon Urban District.

	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of deaths in infants under 1 year.	6	2	8	8	7	11
Number of live births	123	150	155	173	202	169
Infant mortality rate (i.e. no. of deaths in infants under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births)	48.8	13.3	51.6	46.2	34.6	65.1

There were 6 deaths in infants under the age of 1 year, which was an increase of 4 over the low figure for 1950. In each case the birth was legitimate. In most cases these deaths were due to causes which are not readily preventable. Where the number of infant deaths is low, as in the case of this district, it is unwise to place any significance in the infant mortality rate for the purposes of comparison.

Table VIII Showing the infant deaths assigned to this district for 1951, by cause and in age groups.

	under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Broncho-pneumonia	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Congenital Pulmonary Atelectasis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Prematurity.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital Mesenteric Cyst.	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other causes	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
All causes	4	1	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	6

Table IX Showing the infant mortality rates for England and Wales, the County Boroughs and Great Towns, the smaller towns, the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and Blaenavon U.D. for 1951, 1950 and 1949.

Year	England and Wales.	126 Co. Boro's & Great Towns (Including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident pop. 25-50 thousand at 1931 census.	Administrative County of Monmouthshire.	Blaenavon Urban District.
1949	32.0	37.0	30.0	42.7	51.6
1950	29.8	33.8	29.4	39.8	13.3
1951	29.6	33.9	27.6	43.1	48.8

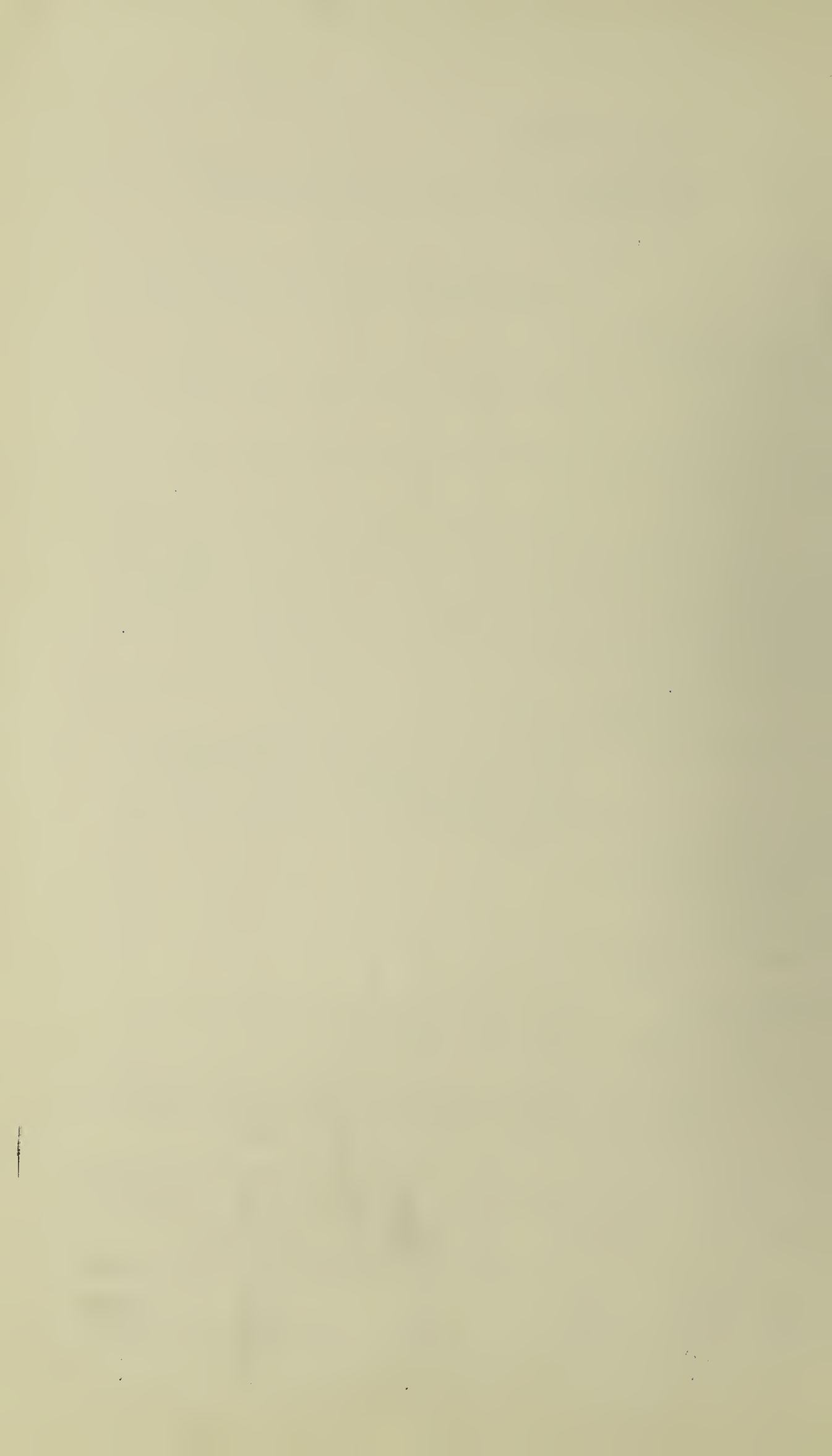


Table X. Comparison of the Vital Statistics for England and Wales, etc., the Administrative County of Monmouthshire, Blaenavon U.D. and Pontypool U.D. for the years 1949, 1950 and 1951.

	Birth rates per 1,000 population						Death rates per 1,000 population.				(Infant Mortality Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births.	
	Live Births	Still Births		Live Births	Still Births		1951	1950	1949	1951	1950	1949
		1951	1950		1950	1949						
1951	1950	1949	1948	1951	1950	1949	1948					
England & Wales	15.5	0.50	15.8	0.37	0.39	12.5	11.6	11.7	29.6	29.8	32.0	
126 County Boro's & Great Towns (Including London)	17.3	0.45	17.6	0.45	0.47	13.4	12.3	12.5	33.9	33.8	37.0	
148 Smaller Towns (Resident pop'n 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 census.	16.7	0.38	16.7	0.38	0.40	12.5	11.6	11.6	27.6	29.4	30.0	
London Administrative County	17.8	0.37	17.8	0.36	0.37	13.1	11.8	12.2	26.4	26.3	29.0	
Administrative County of Monmouthshire.	16.5	0.49	17.4	0.58	0.58	13.4	12.3	12.1	43.1	39.8	42.7	
Pontypool Urban District	16.4	0.49	17.3	0.51	0.54	13.4	11.9	12.5	43.0	43.1	37.8	
Blaenavon Urban District	12.7	0.82	15.0	0.40	0.20	12.9	14.4	13.7	48.8	13.3	51.6	





## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The year 1951 was very free from notifiable diseases, apart from a measles epidemic in the first half.

The notifications received from the general practitioners in respect of notifiable disease during the year are analysed in age and sex groups in table XI

### DIPHTHERIA.

For the second year in succession there has been no notification of diphtheria and there has been only one case of this disease reported in the district during the last 5 years. This very satisfactory position is undoubtedly attributable to the high measure of immunisation now being maintained amongst the children. However, in spite of the obvious benefits of immunisation against diphtheria, it is still not uncommon to find the occasional family that is apathetic towards all the advice given in this direction.

Immunisation against diphtheria is available, without cost, at the district's infant welfare centre, and also through the general practitioners. The procedure is simple and causes little or no discomfort to the child. Two immunising doses at a month's interval are advised about the eight month of age, and a "booster" or "strengthening" dose when the child enters school.

The Area Medical Officer has now brought immunisation against diphtheria into all the infant schools in the district, and by the end of the year many children had been given their "booster" dose, in addition to many others who received primary inoculation as they had not been protected in infancy. It is considered most important to offer the facility of immunisation in the infant schools, since, in so doing, the response is always much better than if the responsibility of taking the children to the infant welfare clinic or family doctor is left wholly with the parents.

Parents are, I am afraid, inclined to be misled by frequent public statements as to the virtual disappearance of diphtheria as implying absolute elimination of the disease rather than elimination conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. Also, as the occurrence of the disease diminishes, fewer and fewer parents have any direct experience of the disease, which is apt to make them dangerously unmindful that it has<sup>not</sup> been eliminated from our midst. If an adequate level of immunisation is not maintained there is a great danger of a return to conditions which existed in this respect - only some 10 years ago - when numerous beds in out fever hospitals were filled with children dying from this scourge.



The undoubted value of immunisation against diphtheria is well illustrated in the following up-to-date national figures showing the yearly deaths from, and notifications of, this disease since 1944.

Year	Deaths-E.&W.	Deaths-Wales	Corrected Notifications.	
			E.& W.	Wales
1944	934	77	23,199	2,213
5	722	57	18,596	1,411
6	472	41	11,986	1,028
7	244	19	5,609	441
8	156	7	3,575	190
9	84	1	1,890	102
50	49	1 X	962 X	62 X
1	34 X	1 X	699 X	53 X

X Provisional figures.

The enormous drop in the deaths and incidence since 1944 will be noted.

In 1951, deaths numbered 34 (E.& W.) and 1(Wales), provisionally, against a yearly average of about 2,800(E.& W.) and 232(Wales), between 1930 and 1940. Notifications of diphtheria (uncorrected) were 1,983(E.& W.) and 108(Wales) for 1951, compared with a yearly average of 55,000(E.& W.) and 4,800(Wales), for the period 1930 to 1940, before immunisation was introduced on a national scale.

Primary immunisations (completed course) in the Blaenavon Urban District for 1951 were as follows:-

Age in Years	under lyr	lyr.	2yrs	3yrs.	4yrs.	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	Total
Number immunised	18	110	16	3	2	1	-	150



Table XI Showing the infectious and other notifiable diseases notified in this district during 1951, analysed in age and sex groups, and giving the admissions to hospital. (Tuberculosis excluded)

Disease	under 1 yr.		1 - 2 yrs		2 - 3 yrs		3 - 4 yrs		4 - 5 yrs		5-10 yrs		10-15 yrs		15-20 yrs		20-35 yrs		35-45 yrs		45-65 yrs		65 yrs & over		All ages		cases admitted to hospital.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total		
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	4	5	12	6	15	4	22	26	23	28	41	41	3	4	0	1	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	121	115	236
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	6
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro spinal fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis:-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	6	13	6	15	4	22	27	23	29	42	41	5	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	2	1	128	122	250	-



### SCARLET FEVER.

There were 6 notifications of scarlet fever during the year. The cases occurred sporadically and did not constitute a single localised outbreak.

### Measles.

The year 1951 was an epidemic year for measles in the district and 236 cases were notified. Blaenavon experiences an outbreak of measles every third year. No deaths were recorded from this disease.

### Whooping Cough.

Only 2 notifications of this disease were received during the year.

### Acute primary pneumonia

Four notifications of acute primary pneumonia were received during the year.

### Erysipelas.

Two notifications of erysipelas were received during the year.

No notifications were received for diphtheria, smallpox, puerperal pyrexia, influenzal pneumonia, food poisoning, cerebrospinal fever, typhoid, ophthalmia neonatorum, encephalitis lethargica and poliomyelitis.





Table XII Showing the number of cases of notifiable disease notified during the last 9 years.

Disease	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	3	5
Scarlet fever	6	9	30	34	4	3	23	3	16
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute primary pneumonia	4	-	2	4	-	1	1	4	24
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis									
(1) Paralytic	-	-	6	-	3	-	-	-	-
(2) Non-paralytic	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	8	3	8	1	4	4	1	1
Measles	236	1	-	397	8	3	142	4	58
Whooping Cough	2	2	49	6	-	5	1	-	2
Food poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



## TUBERCULOSIS.

The chest clinic for the Blaenavon area is situated at the Park Buildings, Pontypool, where a morning session is held every Tuesday. Patients are also required to attend the chest clinic at Newport when they require xray, screening and refills. The chest clinic at Pontypool lacks an xray plant which detracts very much from its value as a clinic. However, by the end of the year an xray plant was being installed at Pontypool and it was estimated that it would be in working order early in 1952. This will be a great saving in travelling time for Blaenavon patients who had previously to attend at Newport. It is also envisaged that there will be two full-day clinics at Pontypool when the xray plant is ready, instead of the present half-day weekly.

During the year the Medical Officer of Health visited the home of every newly certified case of tuberculosis and made an exhaustive environmental enquiry, the details of which were supplied to the County Medical Officer and the Chest Physician. The Medical Officer advised on personal hygiene for the patients to minimise the danger of spread of infection in the home, the necessity for attendance at the chest clinic of all household contacts, and the general management of the home so that the patient should have his or her own bedroom while awaiting sanatorium treatment. Advice was also given as to the procedure for obtaining tuberculosis allowances, in suitable cases, from the National Assistance Board. Suitable booklets produced by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis were also supplied to patients. Those booklets included "Killing Those Germs" and "Family Budgeting for Tuberculous Patients".

A suitable disinfectant, as required, was available free to each tuberculous patient through the Public Health Department for use in sputum receptacles and in connection with the laundering of the patient's personal clothing, etc. Terminal disinfectant was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector on removal to hospital or death in each case.

In cases involving overcrowding the Medical Officer of Health made representation to the Council for early rehousing in instances which warranted such action. In other cases priority admission to sanatoria was obtained for certain cases through the chest physician, Dr. M. I. Jackson, with whom a close liaison is maintained.



It was hoped to arrange for a further mass radiography general public survey for 1951 as a follow-up to the successful venture in 1950. However, it was not possible to arrange a visit by a mobile unit at such frequent intervals, but a definite promise was obtained from the Mass Radiography Service to make a 10 day visit to Blaenavon early in 1952.

It is a reflection that still too few people with too meagre financial support are engaged on the preventive side while the greatest effort in manpower and money continues to be exerted on the curative side.

Mass radiography is one of the mass techniques which enables periodic chest xray to be available to the community at large at reduced expenditure and least loss of time, but, to enable this to be carried out properly, we need more mobile radiography units. It would be appropriate here to quote Dr. F. A. Nash, Medical Director, Mass Xray Service for South West London.

"Mass Radiography is part of a revolutionary development in medicine, the implications of which are not yet recognised. We are at the beginning of a new medical era - the era of Presymptomatic Diagnosis, in which treatment will begin before the patient feels ill, and, if the disease is infectious, before he becomes a danger to others. Today, symptoms select the sick and bring them to the clinic. Tomorrow, the doctor will seek actively for disease among the apparently healthy. At present we deny to our fellow men the routine inspection the engineer gives to our machines. Men, as much as aeroplanes and cars, need periodic scrutiny and maintenance overhauls.





Table XIII Showing the new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the deaths due to tuberculosis during 1951, analysed in age and sex groups, and by type of disease.

Age Groups in years.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 plus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The death rates from tuberculosis for this district for 1951 were Nil.

(Rates for 1950 are in parentheses)

- (a) Tuberculosis (all forms) - Nil per 1,000 population (0.4)
- (b) Pulmonary Tuberculosis - Nil per 1,000 population (0.4)
- (c) Non-pulmonary tuberculosis - Nil per 1,000 population (Nil)

The death rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales from tuberculosis was 0.31 for 1951. The quarterly return for 31.12.51, submitted in accordance with Article 10(8) of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regs. 1930, showed the number of cases of tuberculosis on the tuberculosis register for the Blaenavon U.D. at the end of the year to be as follows:-

Males		Females		TOTAL
Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
45	13	44	5	107



Table XIV Showing the yearly notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) for males and females, and the yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis since 1942.

Year	Yearly notifications of tuberculosis				Total yearly notifications of pulmonary & non-pulmonary tuberculosis	Yearly deaths from tuberculosis				Total of yearly deaths from all forms of tuberculosis.
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Males	Females	
1942	4	6	8	8	14	3	5	0	1	9
1943	8	13	3	1	25	1	6	1	0	8
1944	8	17	1	3	29	3	3	1	1	8
1945	7	8	1	1	17	-	4	1	3	8
1946	10	7	5	-	22	1	4	1	1	7
1947	6	9	2	-	17	3	6	3	2	14
1948	9	6	-	1	16	3	5	1	-	9
1949	8	8	1	-	17	1	2	-	-	3
1950	2	3	2	-	7	4	-	-	-	4
1951	5	3	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	Nil



Table XV Showing the occupations of new cases of tuberculosis in males notified during 1951.

Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Total
Miner (coal cutter)	1	-	1
Storekeeper	1	-	1
Steelworker	1	-	1
Colliery Surface Worker.	1	-	1
Clerk.	1	-	1
Totals	5		5

Table XVI Showing the occupations of the new cases of tuberculosis in females notified during 1951.

Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Total
Housewife	2	-	2
Clerk	1	-	1
Totals	3	-	3



Table XVII Showing the monthly notifications of tuberculosis  
(all forms) for the year 1951.

Month	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
January	-	-	-	-	-
February	1	-	-	-	1
March	1	-	-	-	1
April	-	1	-	-	1
May	-	1	-	-	1
June	-	1	-	-	1
July	3	-	-	-	3
August	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	3	Nil	Nil	8

Table XVIII Showing the admissions and discharges to  
Institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis  
during 1951.

Institution	Admissions		Discharges	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
West Wales San.	-	1	-	1
North Wales San. (Denbigh)	1	-	-	3
Cefn Mably	-	-	2	1
South Wales San. (Talgarth)	4	-	2	2
Sully Hospital	3	-	3	1
St. Woolos Hospital	-	-	-	2
Brecon War Memorial Hosp.	1	-	1	-
Totals	9	1	8	10





Table XIX Showing the notification rates and the death rates for tuberculosis per 1,000 population (estimated) since 1938.

Year	Notification rates per 1,000 population		Death rates per 1,000 population	
	Fulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Fulmonary	Non-pulmonary
1938	2.93	.30	.51	.00
1939	3.02	.68	.59	.00
1940	2.11	.48	.67	.10
1941	2.62	.09	.47	.00
1942	1.00	.40	.79	.10
1943	2.14	.41	.71	.10
1944	2.54	.41	.61	.21
1945	1.55	.21	.50	.50
1946	1.74	.51	.51	.20
1947	1.54	.20	.92	.51
1948	1.51	.10	.81	.10
1949	1.61	.10	.30	.00
1950	.50	20	.40	.00
1951	.82	Nil	Nil	Nil

Public Health (Prevention of tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was necessary under the above regulations in respect of tuberculous employees in the milk trade during the year.



## MISCELLANEOUS.

### National Health Service Act, 1946.

The responsible authority for the provision of local health services under Part III of the above Act for the Blaenavon Urban District is the Monmouthshire County Council.

### National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken under the provision of Sec.47 of the above Act for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

### Water Supply.

No change has taken place in the water supply to the district during 1951, and comments in my Annual Report for 1949 are still applicable. Eighteen samples of raw water were submitted for bacteriological analysis during the year and seven of these were not up to the desired standard. Two samples of treated water were satisfactory.

### Public Swimming Baths

The situation in this respect is satisfactory and was fully covered in my Annual Report for 1949.

### Disposal of House and Trade Refuse.

The system of uncontrolled tipping is still in operation in the district and the adoption of the controlled method is again advocated.

### Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

The Blaenavon Urban District Council is not a Food and Drugs Authority under the above Act, and the function of such an Authority within this district is undertaken by the Monmouthshire County Council.



FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

The following tables indicate the inspections made of factories during the year in connection with the maintenance of provisions for healthy working conditions.

Conditions were found to be generally satisfactory, and, where defects arose, remedial action was promptly undertaken.

Table XX Showing the number of factories and inspections thereof carried out during 1951.

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(1) Factories in which Sects 1,2,3,4 & 6 enforced by Local authority.	8	19	1	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the local authority.	29	66	7	-
(3) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the local authority. (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	1	-	-
Total	38	86	8	-





Table XXI Showing the defects found in factories and action taken.

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	7	8	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-
Total	7	8	1	Nil



## HOUSING

The general and pressing need for new houses in the Blaenavon district is only a too evident fact and calls for no superfluous elaboration in an annual report such as this. Nobody is more aware of this great need than the members of this Council. The waiting list for new houses was brought up-to-date by the Council's Sanitary Inspector towards the end of the year, and perusal of this very comprehensive tome makes very distressing reading when the number of sub-standard properties which are doubly and even trebly occupied by families are noted. This Authority has got an enormous task on hand if it is to meet the housing needs of this district where there is so much insanitary property over-ripe for clearance, and where there are so many families living in overcrowded circumstances in rooms and with in-laws.



Table XXII Showing the number of houses owned by this Local Authority as at 31.12.'51.

	Temp. Pre-fabs	Perm Pre-fabs	Traditional Houses	Total
No. of houses owned by L.A. on 31.12.'51	50	50	284	384
No. of houses in course of erection by L.A. on 31.12.'51.	-	34	2	36
No. of houses for which sanction had been given, but which had not been commenced on 31.12.'51.	-	-	-	20

Table XXIII Showing the number of houses erected during 1951 by the Local Authority and by private enterprise.

	Temp. Pre-fabs	Perm. Pre-fabs	Traditional Houses.
By Local Authority	-	-	16
By Private Enterprise.	-	-	-
Total	Nil	Nil	16

Number of houses under construction by private enterprise but not completed on 31.12.'51:- Nil.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Particulars of complaints received, notices served and the result of action taken under the Public Health Act, Housing Act, etc., by the Sanitary Inspector.

### Complaints Received and Investigations Made.

Number of complaints received re defects and nuisances	62
Number of complaints investigated.	62
Number of nuisances and defects found through inspection of district.	85

#### Public Health Act Notices

Informal notices served re defects and nuisances	133
Informal notices complied with	93
Statutory notices served re defects and nuisances	36
Statutory notices complied with	36 X
X Twelve of these notices were served in 1950 and complied with in 1951.	
Statutory notices served in respect of inadequate closet accommodation (Section 44 P.H. Act)	100
Statutory notices complied with	67
Statutory notices served re defective closet accommodation (Section 45 P.H. Act)	3
Statutory notices complied with	3

#### Housing Act Notices

Informal notices served under Housing Act 1936	1
Informal notices complied with	1
Formal notices served under Housing Act	0
Formal notices complied with	0

#### Foods and Drugs Act

Informal notices served under Foods & Drugs Act	0
Informal notices complied with	0
Formal notices served under Foods & Drugs Act	0
Formal notices complied with	0

#### Factories Act Notices.

Informal notices served under Factories Act	7
Informal notices complied with	7
Formal notices served under Factories Act	1
Formal notices complied with	1

#### Shops Act Notices Served.

Informal notices served under Shops Act (Health & comfort)	3
Informal notices complied with	3
Formal notices served under Shops Act	0
Formal notices complied with	0

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

Informal notices served	0
Informal notices complied with	0
Formal notices served	2
Formal notices complied with	2

#### Bye Law Notices

Notices served re dumping of house refuse by house-holders & others	105
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Provision of Adequate Closet Accommodation for Dwelling Houses, Section 44, Public Health Act, 1936.

A housing survey of this district completed in 1947, revealed that 168 houses were without separate closet accommodation and were sharing with the adjoining house or houses.

In 1950 this Authority passed a resolution requiring owners to provide adequate and separate closet accommodation for every dwelling house in the area.

Sixty-eight Statutory notices were served for this purpose in 1950 and 100 in the year under review, and despite many difficulties encountered, forty-five of these notices were complied with in 1950 and 67 in 1951 making a total of 112 up to the end of December.

One of the difficulties met was that sixty-eight of these notices had to be served upon one owner and it is fair to state that so far more than half of these notices have been complied with. There is every hope that during the coming year most of these notices will have attention and as a result every house will then have separate closet accommodation.

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MILK SAMPLING.

44 samples of graded and ungraded milks were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Newport, for the purpose of bacteriological examination; the results were as follows:-

Ungraded (Raw) Milk

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number conforming to the prescribed bacteriological standard							10
Number which failed to conform to the prescribed bacteriological standard...							6

Graded (Heat Treated) Milk

Number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Number conforming to the prescribed bacteriological standard							22
Number which failed to conform to the prescribed bacteriological standard...							6

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ICE CREAM SAMPLING.

Twenty-four samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination and showed the following results:-

Number of samples taken...	...	24
Number in Grades 1, 2 & 3 (Satisfactory)	...	22
Number in Grade 4 (Unsatisfactory)	...	2



## RODENT CONTROL.

The control of rodents and other pests is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector who is the Rodent Officer for the area, and he has the assistance of a full time Rodent Operative, employed by the Council.

Every effort was again made throughout the year to keep the district, as far as possible, free from rats and mice, and much of the Rodent operative's time was taken up in the inspection of the various properties in the area. It is of interest to note that no less than 4,031 visits and re-visits were made to dwelling houses, 109 to properties owned by the Local Authority, 312 to business and industrial premises and 50 to farms and farm buildings, making a total of 4,502 visits and revisits.

Twenty-one properties owned by the Council, forty-five dwelling houses and seven business premises were treated during the year; all of these were minor infestations.

In addition, the sewers in the district were treated twice, at six monthly intervals, in March and October, and there is ample evidence to prove that these treatments have a marked effect upon the number and size of surface infestations.

In view of the fact that two of the collieries in the area are slopes or drifts, to which rats can easily gain access from the surface, particular attention was paid to the tops of these collieries and the properties in the vicinity.

The Rodent Officer also endeavours to keep himself informed of the position regarding rat supervision below ground at the collieries; this precaution has to be taken and special vigilance observed owing to the damp nature of the local collieries and the fact that a number of cases of Weil's disease have occurred in the Blaenavon collieries in past years.

The position regarding the menace from rats and mice in the district was at the end of December very favourable and much credit is due to the occupiers of business premises, dwelling houses etc., for reporting the presence of rats and mice on their premises to the Rodent Officer. In doing this many minor infestations are dealt with and prevented from developing into major or possibly reservoir infestations. The routine inspection of all dwelling houses and other premises by the Rodent operative has also proved of the greatest value and prevents any big build up of the rat and mouse population.



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Report for year ended 31st December, 1951.

	Type of Property				
	Local Auth- ority.	Dwelling Houses.	Agric- ultural	All other (including Business & Industrial	Total
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	35	2,664	22	236	2,957
11. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result	2	33	0	6	41
(a) notification	a).....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) otherwise	b) 23	17	2	3	45
111. Number of properties (Under 11) found to be seriously infested by rats.	Major) - ..... Minor) 18	- ..... 41	- ..... 0	- ..... 3	- ..... 62
1V. Number of properties (under 11) found to be seriously infested by mice.	3	4	0	4	11
V. Number of infested properties (under 111 & 1V) treated by the Local Authority.	21	45	0	7	73
V1. Number of notices served under Section 4:-	-	-	-	1	1
(1) Treatment.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(2) Structural Works i.e. proofing	-	-	-	1	1
Total	-	-	-	2	2
V11. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority - following issue of notice under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Proceedings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of "block" control schemes carried out.....Nil.





In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr. W. A. Curtis, the Council's Sanitary Inspector, for his wholehearted co-operation during the year. I would also thank the other departments for their helpfulness during the year.

I am,  
Yours obediently,

F. J. Hallinan,  
Medical Officer of Health.

